

EXERCISE---EXERCISE--- EXERCISE (NLE11)  
State of Indiana Response to Catastrophic Earthquake  
1900 EDT, May 18, 2011

New information in Bold Italics

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Governor Mitch Daniels' request for a presidential disaster declaration has been approved for 27 Indiana counties affected by the earthquakes that occurred Monday, May 16, 2011.

The following counties will receive assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of damaged facilities, including debris removal and emergency protective measures:

Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Knox, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Owen, Parke, Perry, Pike, Posey, Putnam, Spencer, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo, Washington, Warrick and Vanderburgh counties.

The following counties will qualify for individual assistance, which can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster: Brown, Clay, Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Putnam, Parke, Vigo, Owen, Greene, Sullivan, Monroe, Lawrence, Jackson, Orange, Washington, Bartholomew, Knox, Gibson, Posey, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Martin, Pike and Vanderburgh, and Vermillion counties.

All counties in the State of Indiana are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

Indiana has also received a Presidential Emergency Declaration providing direct federal support for emergency protective measures and debris removal. Emergency protective measures include immediate and short-term essential activities, such as search and rescue, medical needs and evacuations

County emergency declarations have been announced for nine counties – Crawford, Dubois, Knox, Parke, Pike, Scott, Warrick, Vanderburgh, and Vermillion.

At approximately 10:00 a.m. on May 16, 2011, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake occurred 40 miles northwest of Memphis, Tenn., near Marked Tree, Arkansas. The shaking from the earthquake was felt throughout Indiana. The earthquake registered as a 6.2 magnitude along the Wabash Valley. A second earthquake occurred at 10:02 a.m. in Mt. Carmel, IL with an initial magnitude of 6.0.

As of May 17, 2011, 27 counties have reported being affected by the earthquake: Putnam, Vermillion, Parke, Vigo, Clay, Owen, Greene, Sullivan, Monroe, Brown, Lawrence, Jackson,

Orange, Washington, Bartholomew, Knox, Gibson, Posey, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Dubois, Crawford, Daviess, Martin, Pike and Vanderburgh Counties.

The worst damage is believed to be in IDHS District 10, where 75 percent of the structures are observed to be damaged and at least 50 percent of those were severely damaged.

All rail traffic in Indiana has been stopped pending inspection of bridges.

Communications:

***NOAA Weather Radio transmitters are back in full operation.***

Crawford, Franklin, Daviess, Decatur, Dearborn, Dubois, Fayette, Gibson, Henry, Jennings, Knox, Martin, Ohio, Perry, Pike, Posey, Ripley, Rush, Spencer, Switzerland, Union, Warrick and Wayne counties have regained power and communication capabilities. Additionally, all counties in central Indiana have regained service.

Lawrence County communications are unreliable due to high call volume.

Vanderburgh County is still undergoing repairs.

Power Outages: The state has received reports of significant power outages for Southwestern Indiana. An estimated 560,000 households are without power (no change).

***Power service has been restored to Henry, Fayette, Rush, and Wayne counties in District 6.***

Service has been restored to District 10 counties, as well as Clark, Harrison and Floyd counties. Rolling black outs are happening in southern and west-central portions of the state. Blackouts and/or brown outs can be expected for at least 7 to 10 days.

***Natural Gas:***

***Vectren is in the process of restoring gas service to businesses and residences in District 10, after service was completely shut off.***

***Water/Sewer disruptions: The Mount Vernon Wastewater Treatment Plant has sustained damage and is discharging untreated and partially treated wastewater into the Ohio River. Response personnel are working to contain the discharge. Residents should avoid contact and wash hands thoroughly after coming in contact with possibly contaminated river water.***

Drinking water continues to be a problem throughout the affected area, with little service to residents at this time. Water that is flowing should be boiled before being used for drinking, cooking, bathing or other activities.

Damage to wastewater plants has resulted in raw sewage dumping into the Ohio River. Officials are working to dispatch inspectors to facilities in the affected areas. Residents are encouraged to limit their water usage to help lessen the impact to drinking water and wastewater facilities.

Shelters: To find a shelter near you, text NLESHELTER followed by your Zip Code to 738674. For example, if your zip code was 72756, you would text NLESHELTER 72756 to 738674.

***Evacuations: 12,532 have been evacuated.***

Casualties: The current total number of confirmed fatalities is 175, and the number of others injured is currently estimated at 3,687 (no change).

***Hospitals in Lawrence, Greene, Sullivan, and Orange counties are at capacity. Terre Haute Regional Hospital, Union Hospital in Clinton, Ind., IU Health Bloomington Hospital, Columbus Regional Hospital and Scheck Hospital in Seymour area closed.***

All hospitals in the District 10 area are full and unable to accept additional patients at this time.

***Knox County reported the intensive care wing of Good Samaritan Hospital collapsed with people trapped, no further information.***

***Sullivan County reporting 5 miners rescued from the Pit Mine collapse. There are 5 miners still trapped, believed to be alive.***

***Posey County EOC confirmed 60 injured residents within the Mount Vernon city limits. Several persons reported missing in Posey County.***

***Public library in Mt. Vernon collapse has been stabilized. Twenty-five people involved in the collapse. All have gotten out, no fatalities and only several minor injuries reported.***

Individuals are advised to seek medical attention at a hospital ONLY in cases of a medical emergency. Citizens are asked to please care for minor injuries and illness at home.

***Airports: The Terre Haute airport control tower is still closed. Evansville Airport currently has one runway of three down. All other airports are functional.***

Road Closures: Many major highways across southwestern Indiana have been closed due to earthquake-related bridge damage, but INDOT inspectors will post “road closed” or “bridge closed” signs when possible. Travelers should not assume that a road or bridge is safe to travel if there is no sign posted.

For information on road closures, visit the Indiana Travel Conditions site, which can be found at <http://indot.carsprogram.org> or by calling (800) 261-ROAD (7623)

Speed is being restricted to 50mph for all interstate traffic on any open highways.

### RESPONSE EFFORTS

State Emergency Operations Center: Under the leadership of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), the Indiana Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated at the highest level and will remain activated 24 hours a day to monitor conditions and provide resource support to local county emergency agencies. The state is working with local emergency management officials that can be contacted to assess the damages throughout the state. State officials have also been in contact with FEMA officials.

State Agencies supporting activities in the State EOC include:

Indiana Board of Animal Health  
Indiana Department of Administration  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Indiana Department of Transportation  
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration  
Indiana National Guard  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Indiana State Police  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
Integrated Public Safety Commission

Other organizations supporting activities in the State EOC include:

American Red Cross  
US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives  
US Department of Health and Human Services

County Emergency Operations Center Activations: 18 counties have activated their emergency operation centers (EOC).

***Indiana Task Force 1 is on its way home.*** Ohio Task Force 1 is still on site in Mount Vernon, Indiana to assist local emergency management with ongoing response efforts.

***IDHS: District Response Task Force 3 was mobilizing to relieve District Response Task Force 2 in Posey County.*** The public in Posey County is asked to avoid areas where responders are working, as well as to avoid unnecessary travel.

The District Response Task Forces include fire, EMS, law enforcement, all hazards support and support staffs.

In Indiana the district concept divides the state into 10 geographic segments or districts. Within each district, IDHS has guided the development of an emergency response task force, each with

varying capabilities, to support local emergency management agencies and streamline the mutual aid process.

These district response task forces are staffed with local volunteers including firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, emergency managers, law enforcement personnel and other local emergency response professionals.

INDOT: All traffic management cameras are back on line and operational. Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) highway and bridge inspectors are assessing the structures throughout the state as quickly as they can, but the extensive area of damage created by the earthquakes has complicated their efforts.

INNG: The Indiana National Guard has deployed more than 5,000 troops. Currently those troops are conducting search and rescue/recovery, air surveillance, medical triage/treatment, haz mat and reconnaissance activities.

US Coast Guard: USCG is currently running search and rescue on the Ohio River from Louisville west and on the Wabash River from Terre Haute south.

Bulk Distribution sites: The American Red Cross is working with local EMAs to determine bulk distribution sites in the affected counties.

***Red Cross: Red Cross will continue to provide food and water to people staying in their homes. People whose homes are intact should not need to make plans to leave the district. However, if communities are declared unsafe or dwellings are unsafe, that is a different issue, and residents should work with their local officials to obtain assistance and guidance in these cases. Public safety officials advise that residents should not travel unless it is essential to do so.***

***For people in shelters, Red Cross reports that shelters will remain open as long as they are needed. The length of time someone will need to stay in a shelter will depend on several factors. For example, if someone's home is intact but power is out, they may be able to return to their home when power is restored. In cases where homes can no longer be lived in, residents will need to work with their insurance company, FEMA or other assistance agencies to plan for transition from shelters to transitional or permanent housing.***

Anyone wondering about the safety about residents in affected areas should visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and click on "List Yourself or Search Registrants" to register or see if their loved one has checked in.

ISP: In addition to regularly assigned staff, Indiana State Police has 300 troopers dispatched to the affected area to assist with search and rescue operations, provide traffic assistance and security, and assist local emergency management officials with response efforts.

Ohio: Five Ambulance Strike Teams (each consisting of five ambulances with 2 EMS personnel

per ambulance) from Ohio will be staging in Columbus, Indiana Wednesday morning to support EMS efforts in the affected area.

***Jackson County: Fuel price gouging reported in Seymour area. Individuals encountering pricing issues should report them to the state Attorney General's office. Long lines may be encountered at gas stations; citizens urged to be patient.***

For more information about staying safe during an earthquake, visit [www.GetPrepared.in.gov](http://www.GetPrepared.in.gov). Follow Indiana on "my social media" at <https://www.nlevnn.com/MSM/StateOfIndianaPublicSafety> to stay informed about this developing situation.

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Media Contact: THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION IS NOT FOR DISCLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC: Joint Information Center (JIC) 317.238.1784, [JIC@JIC.in.gov](mailto:JIC@JIC.in.gov).